

# SIMPLY SOCCER

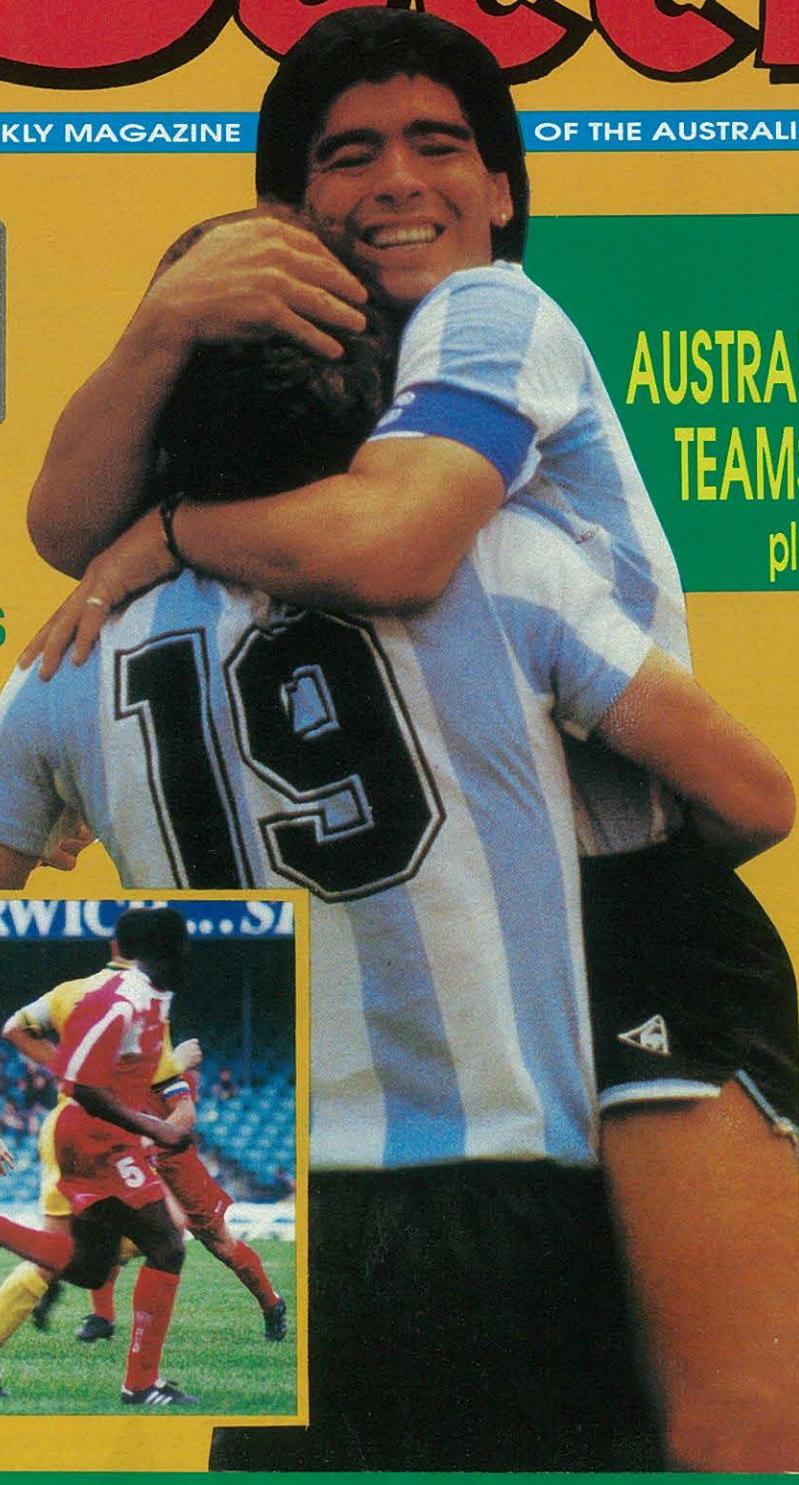
OCTOBER 28, 1993  
Volume 1 Number 5

THE OFFICIAL WEEKLY MAGAZINE

OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FEDERATION \$2



C'mon  
Aussies  
C'mon



inside read .....  
**AUSTRALIA v ARGENTINA  
TEAMS & PROGRAMME**  
plus all the World Cup news



FULL PROGRAMME of  
ALL the Coca - Cola  
SOCCER LEAGUE  
MATCHES inside .....

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OF THE *Coca-Cola* SOCCER LEAGUE

*a name Marconi is comfortable with ...*



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**PRINTED BY:**  
Ideas Media Services

**DISTRIBUTORS:**  
Wrapaway

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## AUSTRALIA'S DATE WITH DESTINY

It look as if someone has had a quiet word in the ear of Diego Maradona. Gone are most of the tantrums, he is starting to give interviews and is even behaving in a normal fashion – or at least as normal as one of the most hounded players in the world can ever be. It looks as if Maradona has found out that the Aussie soccer press is nowhere near as bad as the mass-hysteria paparazzi of Europe and South America.

That's good news for the game because there is little doubt that Sunday's clash is the most important match that Australia has ever played. Nevertheless, the Aussies aren't there to be another stage in the Diego Maradona comeback story. Despite the huge odds stacked against them they are playing for a place in the finals and we should all cheer them on until we are hoarse.

Round 2 of the CCSL sees the postponement of two scheduled games but there is enough left on the programme to continue the excitement of last weekend. The standard of play is just as good as in recent years which bodes well for the future of the game.

Given the amount of young players who made their CCSL debuts last weekend we are set for a bumper season.

John Constantine's disclosures on Asian club competition (see article) and our World Cup qualifying path are a further shot in the arm. It now looks almost certain that Australia will have a qualifying route through Asia for 1998. But after so many campaigns have been fought – and lost at the last hurdle – it would be insanity to toss our lot totally into the Asian bag. FIFA have only decided to review our qualification route because of results on the international field.

Maybe Oceania is something of a joke, but it's ours. Our qualification route, or whichever team represents Oceania, should be as winners of our own confederation playing off against the winners of one of the Asian sections. The very worst we should accept is for our winners to go straight into the final round.

Don't sell out the smaller Oceania countries by jumping ship now. By keeping a part of our present status World Cup finals qualification should be ours about three times out of every four trophies. That allows for old foes New Zealand to get up every so often – as they always will – and kick the stuffing out of us, and also for the occasional surprise result.

The rest of the time we should be ensconced as one of the 24 finalists, enjoying such benefits as England, Brazil, Argentina and West Germany – recognised as the leaders in their parts of the footballing globe.

Soccer, would then become a major sport in Australia swamping the other codes with the kind of media exposure that only a good World Cup run will bring.



In the programme for the Canadian World Cup clash I wrote an article entitled 'Two Steps to Heaven', one which showed how tantalisingly close Australia was to reaching its ultimate goal - a place in the World Cup finals.

Well, since then history has recorded that Australia eliminated Canada in the most dramatic fashion, in a penalty shoot out after extra time had failed to separate the two sides.

Now, we are just one step away, with the only difference being that, of

## KNOCKING ON

course, Australia knows its final opponent, it knows that it must get past the might of Argentina. Can Thommo's Tornadoes take that last gigantic step? They are certainly knocking on heaven's door, and there are a few pundits out there who think that they are actually ready to boot the door down.

Argentina seem invincible, their very reputation as one of the major world soccer super-powers is awesome. Twice winners of the World Cup how could they possibly be eliminated by Australia, a country which has only ever qualified for the finals once before and has never, ever won a game in the World Cup finals?

Can Australia, a third world soccer country, knock out the mighty gaucheros? Ask Fuastino Asprilla about that, the brilliant Colombian danced through the Argentine defence as if it was made out of custard - all yellow and no backbone.

Maradona has said that the Colombians weren't five goals better - just who is he

## HEAVEN'S DOOR

trying to kid, himself?

The truth is that soccer doesn't give a hoot for reputations.

Go onto the pitch at the Sydney Football Stadium thinking that Australia is an easybeat and you'll end up in the dressing room in tears.

Other teams have suffered in the past, including Argentina themselves who

were on the end of a comprehensive 4-1 thrashing courtesy of a Charlie Yankos inspired Socceroo eleven.

That game was back in '88

during the Bicentennial Gold Cup and current Argentinian coach Alfio Basile can say what he likes about that being an experimental team but he

knows the hurt that Argentinian pride suffered

that day.

Ask goalkeeper Luis Islas what it felt like to pick four Aussie balls out of his net - he's in the current squad.

Having already been humiliated by the Colombians, Basile wouldn't dare show his face in the pampas if his country is beaten by Australia.

Basile knows that it won't

be easy, that is why he is saying that a 1-1 draw will be a good result for him.

Hasn't Australia come a long way in the last few years?

And if the Coca-Cola Socceroos can win the vital first leg then they really will be knocking on heaven's door.

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# Maradona - is he still King of the Pampas?



## SOCCE FILE

Born:  
3/10/60, Buenos Aires  
Position:  
attacking midfield  
Clubs:  
Boca Juniors  
Barcelona  
Napoli  
Seville  
Newells Old Boys

Diego Armando Maradona has unquestionably been one of the great soccer players of the eighties. Whether he still has that touch of genius remains to be seen.

It certainly wasn't much in evidence during his spell with Spanish club Seville. Then a much-overweight Maradona waddled through games sometimes barely even raising a sweat.

He was slow to react to passes, had lost that magic acceleration that was his hallmark in past seasons, and his touch was also seemingly gone.

Now a fitter and slimmer Maradona – having shed an amazing 12 kilos – says he is ready to take on the Aussies.

Sadly, and rather pathetically, the star of yesteryear has turned his back on the Australian media, generally refusing to give interviews and acting in a hostile fashion – even to the point where he kicked one cameraman.

"Australia is a good team," says Maradona (or at least to SBS World Sports programme to which *Simply Soccer* is indebted for these quotes).

"We have to be more humble than ever. Argentina will have to achieve a result by playing to its strengths and with humility."

It's a pity that those standards haven't become materialised in his own behaviour.

## Thanks a million .....

A highly relieved Eddie Thomson finally broke the news late last week that stay-away 'keeper Mark Bosnich was definitely ready to take up the number one shirt against Argentina.

"He'll play for his club on Tuesday night and then fly straight to Sydney," said a delighted national team boss.

"It's a case of the best man for the job and in my mind Mark Bosnich is the best goalkeeper that Australia has."

Bosnich has been in inspired form for his club including a European tie against Deportivo La Coruna when he saved a penalty. Keepers save penalties by stepping off their line and narrowing the angle or by diving low to a pre-selected side, but Bosnich did neither; instead he waited until the ball was kicked (which few keepers seem to do) and then brilliantly palmed away a ball that was struck into the mid-right side of the goals.

"That is the sort of form we need," said an Aussie camp insider.

"A good keeper is worth a goal a game - remember his save against AC Milan."

Bosnich also comes back to Australia with the good news that his English Premier League club are listening to a \$1.2m offer for fellow keeper Nigel Spink. But what price bracket does that put the exceptional young Sydney sider into?



## When One Head is Better

The sight of Aussie tough-guy Mehmet Durakovic at Edensor Park last Sunday playing with a black bandana around his forehead might have been foreboding for the Sydney United players, but it was real good news for the Australian camp.

For Durakovic was taking precautions to safeguard a part of his body which has been used as a chopping block lately.

"Durakovic's head - it's had more cracks than humpty dumpty!" was the news from his South Melbourne club.

And the man who marked Gray Lineker and Jean Pierre Papin out of games against the *Coca-Cola* Socceroos is getting set for the game of his life - a birthday present treat to Diego Maradona that the little Argentinian will never forget.

"You'll be able to find Maradona easily enough at the end of the game on Sunday - he'll be in Mehmet's back pocket."

But Durakovic is no certainty to pick up the man-marking job, with Batistuta still a possibility for his close attentions of an unwelcome kind.

## Drumming Up A Storm

Argentinian supporters are continuing their telephone bombardment of ASF HQ late this week over the decision to ban their distinctive drums from the match on Sunday.

Also on the banned list will be flags and banners - which will rob the game of some of its atmosphere. Still it will be nice to go to a game without someone sticking a flagpole up your nose or giving you a headache with incessant drum pounding!

## Cap That

If selected, Paul Wade will equal Peter Wilson's long standing record for Australian A international appearances against Argentina.

Wilson's record at present stands at 64 games with Wade perched to join him on 63. On the 60 mark is John Kosmina who is also the most capped Australian born player of all time. Another 60 cap member is Ottie Abonyi, the former St George striker.

Wade picked up a 'bonus' two caps against Korea last month at a time when his international career was looking perilously close to being finished. But a good showing in the second half of the return match against Canada kept Wade's career alive.

Realistically though, Wade will pull his last shirt on when this World Cup campaign is over and Thomson must select a new captain.

But with two caps still to play for in the elimination games against Argentina Wade still has the time to pip Peter Wilson - just.



**The 50 Cap Club**  
64 Peter Wilson  
63 Paul Wade  
60 John Kosmina  
60 Ottie Abonyi  
57 Jimmy Rooney  
50 Manfred Schaefer

## How Will Australia Line Up?

That is the sixty four dollar question on every Australian supporter's lips. But the only man with the complete answer is still looking for the clue which will make his own mind up.

Coach Eddie Thomson has to sort out the Argentinian possibilities before he finalises the team that has gone through his every thought for the last four weeks.

Fans can expect a battle-royal with the Sydney Football Stadium being no place for the faint hearted. I expect Argentina to adopt a 4:4:2 formation which would allow them to play for control of the midfield. That in turn would allow them to hit Australia on the break.

That sort of formation would suit Australia's currently favoured style which sees a sweeper operate at the back and a single striker backed up with another front runner lying off.

Possibly Thomson will play Zelic as a conventional sweeper and use Milan Ivanovic as an extra marker, probably picking up Maradona. Durakovic could then be used to sit on Maradona.

I see the Aussie line-up as:



## Polak Back

South Melbourne's newly signed midfield might be a surprise choice as right back - the problem position which has plagued Australia for the last eighteen months.

Like his new club, Australia has a surfeit of midfielders, and inclusion as right back would allow Australia to switch Jason van Blerk over to the left - his favoured side and one in which he had an outstanding game against Croatia.

## Mitch On The Rails

Davie Mitchell got his career back on rails last week with his \$220,000 transfer to Millwall. His first game back in England was a 2-0 win against Notts County, the club of fellow Aussie expatriate Shaun Murphy.

Mitchell is the 'oldest' Socceroo with an international career which stretches back to 1981 when he made his debut as a nineteen-year-old against Taiwan.

## Not Tonight Josephine .....

The Socceroos have been banned from leaving their hotel after today.

"I don't want to be too hard on the players but there is too much at stake in this game. Everyone is now confined to the hotel and there will be no outside distractions," said Les Scheinflug, the Aussie Assistant Coach.

Included in the ban are wives and girlfriends .....

**Come On Aussie,  
Come On, Come On**

# Asian Competition the path to professionalism

by  
Bruce Campbell

Australian soccer is set to launch on an ambitious new phase with the announcement by ASF Chairman, John Constantine, that CCSL clubs will participate in Asian competition.

In the past the ASF has been strongly criticised for largely ignoring the league clubs in favour of its extensive national team commitment.

But the new-look Federation has recognised the need to boost the image of the game at club level.

"We have concentrated much of our resources in the past on the national teams," Constantine said at the launch of the 1993/94 Coca-Cola Soccer League season at Sydney's Novotel last week.

"It is time that we fostered club competition."

Despite media reports to the contrary it is unlikely that Australian clubs will participate in the Asian Club Championship.

This would clash with existing league commitments and would be difficult to implement without a drastic change to our domestic set-up.

Instead it is likely that the champion club of Australia will compete in a tournament with champions of other countries, possibly Japan and Korea.

"I have had extensive talks with executives of the Japanese and Korean Federations," said Constantine.

"It is appropriate that the Federation should push for this sort of competition because we really need that injection to push our game.

"There has been so much concern with the national team lately.

"We cannot have good players unless we have a good competition. We can't



"The ASF is not making noise just for the sake of it, we are deeply committed to this programme."

Marconi coach Frank Arok also revealed in an exclusive interview with *Simply Soccer* that the current CCSL champion has already received an offer to play against the Korean champions.

"Yes, we had talked about the possibility," said Arok.

"But there just wasn't enough time to put it into operation."

produce them nor can we keep the ones that we have at present.

"Neither can we sell a product to the public which is unfinished, something that is still raw, semi-finished."

Arok built up one of Australia's best ever club teams at the end of the '60s in St George and although he was not at the helm when the club embarked on its hugely successful Asian tour in 1971, his contribution was widely acknowledged.

The Marconi maestro also sees the Asian connection as a paving stone on the road to full time professionalism.

"We haven't yet produced a player who is worth that magic \$1 million transfer fee," says Arok.

"When our clubs can afford

to pay a player a salary in the region of \$100,000 - enough to have a comfortable living - then our football will be a finished product.

"But even then we will still lose players overseas.

"It happens in Brazil and Holland, why not in Australia?

"If you are a first class actor then you must work in Hollywood and so it is with a soccer player."

Arok sees a club tournament involving teams from Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore - something which he

has been espousing for the last decade.

"Every year we must have a big tournament, something of the highest quality."

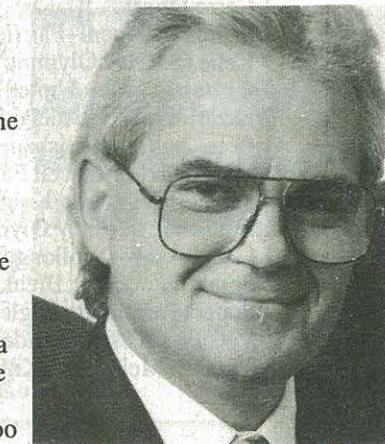
"It should ideally be played over the Australia day weekend, a set time when the public can get used to it happening."

The prospect of clubs like South Melbourne, Marconi and Adelaide City matching it with the cream of Europe is an exciting one which the fans should relish.

## Saints Bitter Blow

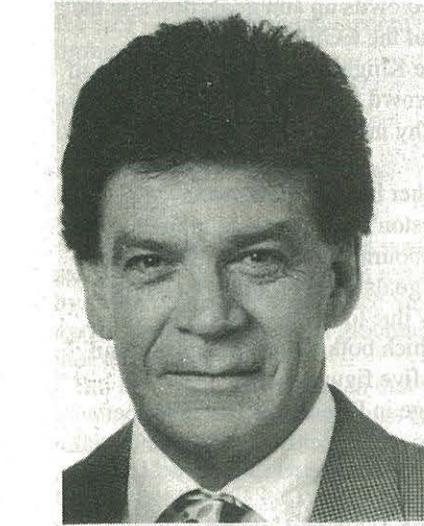
St George has been sensationally dumped from the NSWSF's Super League competition.

Along with Eastern Suburbs and Wollongong United the Saints have been relegated to the Federation First Division. Only last season St George were saved at the eleventh hour from relegation after an expansion to a 14 team Super League but the size of that division has proved too cumbersome.



DEVASTATED: Les Murray

Reaction to the news from media persons with a St George connection was understandable including; Les Murray (SBS Television and a lifetime supporter); "This is devastating news, it is really a sad, sad day for Australian soccer as a whole."



WARREN: a great pity

Johnny Warren (SBS Television and Free-lance Journalist, former St George captain and coach); "Why, what has the club done to deserve all this. It is a great pity."

Frank Arok (Marconi coach, former long-time Saints coach); "I feel sick. In their wisdom they have killed a good club. It happened to Sydney City, Prague, Western Suburbs. St

George were one of the most positive clubs in Australia. But that's life."

John Economos (Soccer Journalist and former St George manager); "First they were kicked out of the CCSL, then they closed the ground, now this. Why? It is disgusting. At one time St George fielded nine players in the national team."

Bruce Campbell (Soccer Journalist, *Simply Soccer* Consulting Editor, and lifetime St George supporter); "I've got great memories of the Saints but they really are in the days of past glory. We can't dwell in the past and if the club can't keep pace with the realities of the present then they must face the inevitable. But all those great players what a tragedy."

## When The Whistle Blows

with  
Alan Gordon

1993 will probably go down in history as a watershed year for Australian soccer; the year when everything started to come into place; the year when the dawn of a new era was heralded loudly and clearly.

Despite the knockers, and there are many and their noise is loud, the prospects look good for the game in this country.

Never in my memory has there been a year when so much has been achieved, with the possible exception of 1977 which will go into the history books as the year that commonsense prevailed and a national league was formed.

Since January we have seen a brilliant World Youth Cup in which our young guns reached the semis; we have seen the Joeys attain a highly creditable Quarter Final placing; we have witnessed the World Cup machine roll on to the penultimate stage; we have seen the final de-ethnicisation of the CCSL; but more importantly we have seen *public acceptance*.

The clamour for tickets for the Coca-Cola Socceroos game with AC Milan was huge, the media attention was magnificent - but even that has been paled into minuscule insignificance when compared with this weekend's clash with Argentina.

Turn on the TV and there are the Argentinians; pick up a newspaper and they are covered in massive detail; speak to people in the street; they all have their own opinions about the match, the personalities involved and the likely outcome.

This is the most important game in the history of Australian soccer - of that I am utterly convinced. And even if we don't qualify for the finals next year the impact on the Australian general public has been astonishing.

Only a landslide defeat in Sydney would turn that acceptance sour, and that simply won't happen.

Australian soccer has arrived, get ready for the boom period because it is well and truly on its way.

I predict that soccer will keep on pushing to new heights; I predict that Ned Zelic's transfer record will be smashed to smithereens in the not-too-distant future; I predict that Australian clubs will set Asia alight.

Who would have dared make any one of those predictions five years ago, or even last year?

Not me, I might be over-optimistic but I'm certainly not crazy!

Not me.

# the stats page .. the stats page .. the stats

## ROUND 1

**Wollongong City Wolves** 3 (McFadden (2), Ollerenshaw)  
**Newcastle BHP Breakers** 1 (Spink)  
Attendance: 2,868 (Last season 2,448)

**Brisbane Strikers** 1 (A Lees)  
**Parramatta Eagles** 1 (Soper)  
Attendance: 2,750 (Last season 2,086)

**Heidelberg United** 2 (Obradovic (2))  
**Marconi Fairfield** 2 (Corica, Hodgson o.g.)  
Attendance: 4,511 (Last season 4,003)

**Melbourne Knights** 2 (Marth, Viduka)  
**Adelaide City** 0  
Attendance: 2,000 (Last season 2,549)

**Sydney Olympic** 2 (Kelic, Milosevic)  
**Morwell Falcons** 1 (Markovski, pen)  
Red Card: Markovski (Morwell)  
Attendance: 4,539 (Last season 3,305)

**West Adelaide** 5 (Blair (2), Lazaridis, Cerro, Vatsilas)  
**Melbourne Brunswick United** 0  
Attendance: (Last season 4,127 v Preston)

**Sydney United** 1 (Gibson)  
**South Melbourne** 0  
Attendance: 2,552 (Last season 3,231)



## Leading CCSL Scorers

2 Blair (West Adelaide)  
2 McFadden (Wollongong Wolves)  
2 Obradovic (Heidelberg United)  
1 Cerro (West Adelaide)  
1 Corica (Marconi-Fairfield)  
1 Kelic (Sydney Olympic)  
1 Gibson (Sydney United)  
1 Lazaridis (West Adelaide)  
1 Lees, Andrew (Brisbane Strikers)  
1 Markovski (Morwell Falcons)  
1 Marth (Melbourne Knights)  
1 Milosevic (Sydney Olympic)  
1 Ollerenshaw (Wollongong)  
1 Spink (Newcastle Breakers)  
1 Soper (Parramatta Eagles)  
1 Vatsilas (West Adelaide)  
1 Viduka (Melbourne Knights)

## Crowds Up, Goals Down

It was a case of crowds up and goals down in the opening round of the CCSL.

Only Melbourne Knights and Sydney United had a drop in their crowd figures with all other games enjoying a healthy increase of between 15% and 33%.

Goals, on the other hand, were down. Substituting Preston's last season tally for newcomers Melbourne Brunswick, this season saw a drop of 6 goals on the round as a whole. That was largely due to two high scoring games last season in which both South Melbourne and Marconi posted five figure counts. The game average in Round 1 was 3 goals per game, enough to show plenty of crowd potential.

## SBS Hit The Spot

SBS also had a great opening success which saw a four-programme blitz on the CCSL. Sunday's *On The Ball* was backed up by the evening showing of *Match of the Day*, Monday's *Soccer on Monday* and another new programme, Tuesday's *Goals*.

Robbie Wheatley previewed a special skills programme in *On The Ball* also - watch out for Robbie's back-up segment in *Simply Soccer* starting next week.



### Coca-Cola Soccer League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
West Adelaide	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Wollongong City	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Melbourne Knights	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Sydney Olympic	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Sydney United	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Marconi-Fairfield	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Heidelberg United	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Parramatta Eagles	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Brisbane Strikers	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
South Melbourne	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Morwell Falcons	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Adelaide City	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Newcastle BHP *	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Melbourne Brunswick	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

\* starred club is lowest placed Regional team, which is subject to relegation at the end of the season

# Striking for Pride

**New Brisbane coach Bruce Stowell has put the pride back into the Queenslanders, last year's easybeats**

by  
Michael Komadina

Last season saw the then Brisbane United finish stone-cold motherless last in the CCSL, and clearly the new club was in trouble.

Despite an encouraging first-ever season in the CCSL Brisbane were staring the harsh realities of survival in the face - and things really weren't looking all that good.

A series of mid-season disputes within the club set the headlines for all the wrong reasons - particularly the clash with Alan Hunter.

When coach Miron Bleiberg was sensationally sacked, and then replaced by former Breakers boss Bruce Stowell, maybe things looked even gloomier - if that was possible.

But there is an old saying in that when you are at rock bottom things can only get better.

In the League Cup Brisbane showed the truth of that cliche, with excellent performances against Sydney Olympic and Parramatta Eagles, the eventual winners.

Clearly the major troubles of last season are behind Brisbane Strikers and the club will be hoping that this new showing can be reflected through the turnstiles where it matters most.

On the playing field Stowell has assembled a squad of largely unknowns but clearly players with some talent.

"In the cup semi final against Parramatta we kept on pushing forward," said the articulate Stowell.

"I knew that Clint Boulton was coming back from the AIS so Mirko Runje (last season's regular goalie) didn't fit into my plans. There was no animosity.

"Of the other players, I had ideas in certain areas and I just wanted to bring in some of my own players.

"Clayton Koch, was one of those cases. I had to trim the squad down to 18 and he just didn't fit into those plans. At that stage I didn't think he would have made the 18."

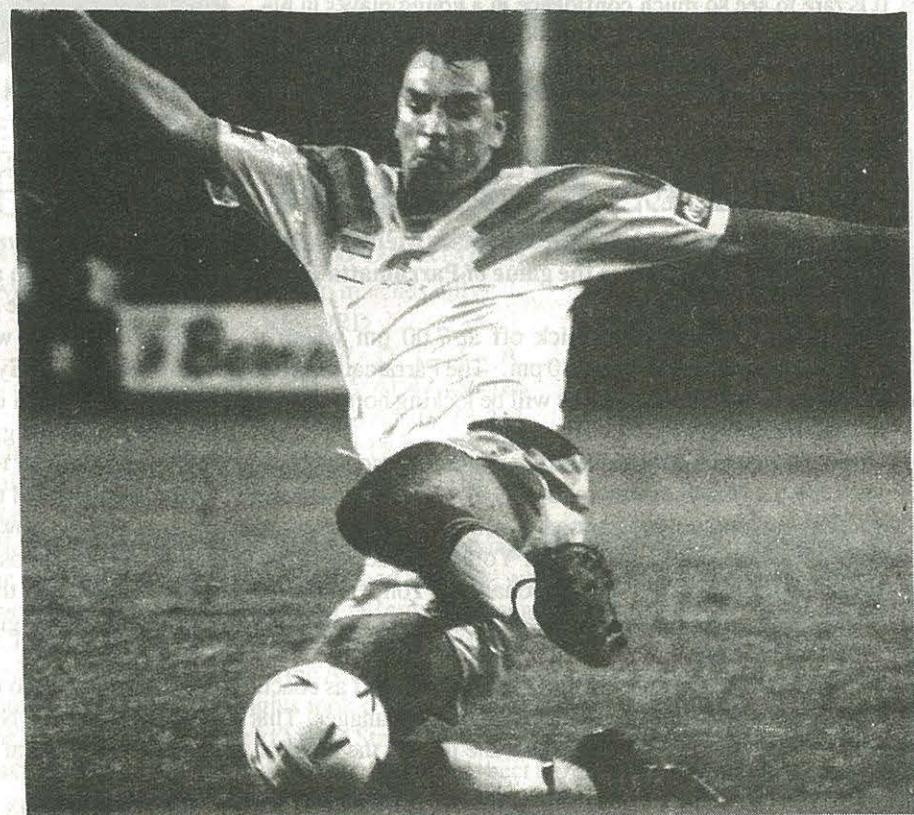
In the game against Parramatta Eagles a late sucker goal from Marshall Soper wrecked Brisbane's hopes of emulating their sister club's 1977 success but the Strikers had still done enough to put the pride back into the League's most northern club.

Gary Phillips is one of the 'older' heads that Stowell will be looking to strengthen his side.

Phillips was recruited from Sydney Olympic during the off season and is greatly admired by his new boss.

"He is a really good player, but what I have to do is to stop him from doing everyone else's job."

It is that sort of commitment from the players which seems to typify Stowell's Brisbane Strikers, a commitment which the club is basing its very CCSL future on.



# The Parramatta Spitfire

## Soper predicts a big future for Joe Spiteri

Joe Spiteri, the 20-year-old Parramatta Eagles signing from Victorian State League club Albionis set for a big future in the game.

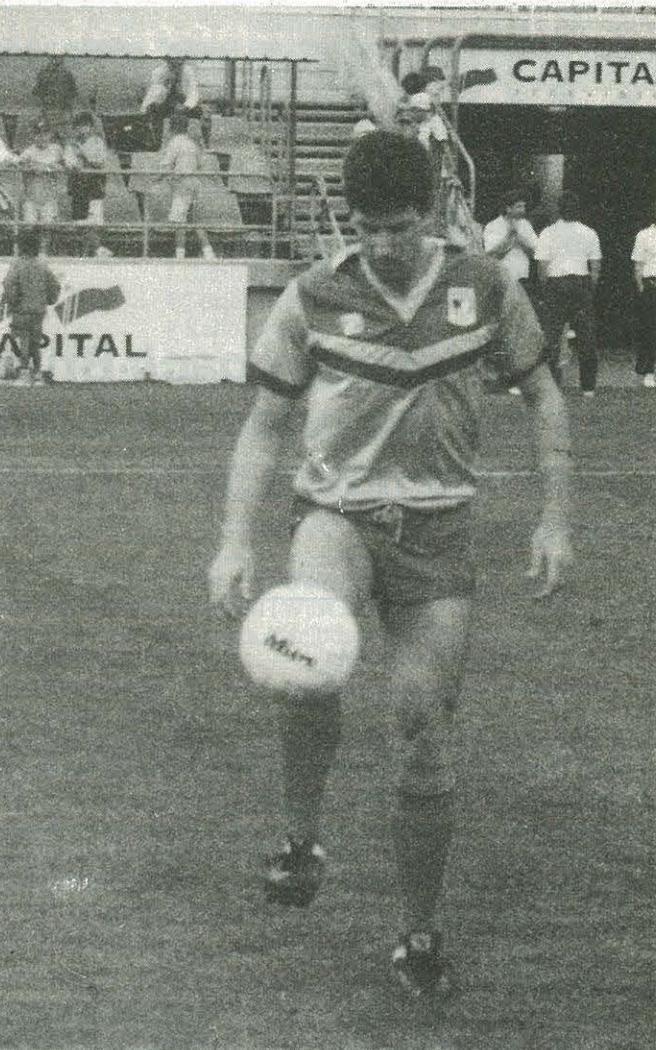
And that is the opinion of Eagles captain Marshall Soper, a player who has seen much and done a lot during his own long and colourful career.

"I'll put a big tag on Joe," says Soper.

"He's a young player but it's a pleasure to play alongside someone who works so hard. Already he has given us a new dimension with his exceptional work rate and as far as I am concerned the sky is the limit for him - as long as he keeps his feet on the ground."

Spiteri has been given a forward striking role with Parramatta, playing alongside the player that he idolises, former Socceroo star Soper. But while Soper concentrates on a conventional centre forward role, hustling and poaching in the box, Spiteri has been encouraged to raid down the flank, adding that extra width to the attack which has already seen Parramatta win the League Cup.

It is rare to see so much confidence in a young player in his debut season, and it is partly that confidence which makes Soper think the former State League player has a big future ahead of him - a player who has already been dubbed the 'Parramatta Spitfire'.



JOE'S HERO: That's Marshall Soper who predicts a big future for his young protege

## EAGLES FLY HIGH AT NIGHT with Sam Vella

On Saturday evening the updated lights at Melita Stadium shall be turned on prior to the game of Parramatta Eagles and Melbourne Knights.

This game is scheduled to kick off at 7.00 pm which is preceded by a local derby at 4.30 pm. The Parramatta Eagles U/19's and the Parramatta Colts will be locking horns in what is a historic event.

This is the first time that the club has entered a second team in the C.C.S.L. Youth Northern Division. The second team which as you might have guessed, is being called "Parramatta Colts", is being looked after by our Youth League Sub Committee and has the well known personality of Tony Henderson as the coach, David Suggett as assistant coach and Allyn Preston as Manager.

Our usual U/19 team this year has Greg Ankudinoff as coach, Vince Balzan as assistant and Charlie Grima as manager. This team was the first team to visit Brisbane to play the Queensland Academy last Saturday.

The year started with a bang when the Eagles were successful in winning the League Cup (Ex-N.S.L. Cup) for the second

time in the last four years. The celebrations went well into the night when the team and supporters re-grouped at the Melita Club House after the game.

The new floodlights would make Melita Stadium as the best lit Soccer Stadium in Sydney. Two new towers with banks of thirty lights on each on the opposite side to the stand and an extra twelve on the grandstand side will turn the pitch into a well lit arena which would make football a delight to watch. Where as before had three poles with four lights on each with a total of twelve, now we shall have sixty.

The project which cost at least \$125,000 was funded by a grant of \$50,000 through the N.S.W. Soccer Federation and Footy Tab, \$35,000 by a grant from the Federal Government and \$45,000 by the club. A loan of \$40,000 was secured from the State Government to ensure the success of the project.

Great thanks to the N.S.W. Soccer Federation, N.S.W. State Government, Federal Government and the Parramatta Council.

A great welcome to all the new players on board and to everyone visiting Melita Stadium.

## Coca-Cola SOCCER LEAGUE - Round 2

### PARRAMATTA EAGLES v MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Melita Stadium, Sydney - Saturday October 30, 1993



FIRST GRADE 7 pm.

TEAM COLOURS  
RED SHIRT  
RED SHORTS  
WHITE SOCKS  
COACH: RALE RASIC

TEAM COLOURS  
RED SHIRT  
WHITE SHORTS  
BLUE SOCKS  
COACH: MIRKO BAZIC

PETER GUNNING - 1  
ADAM CIANTAR - 2  
GLEN GWINNE - 3  
GERRY GOMEZ - 4  
JOHN KOCH - 5  
NICK ORLIC - 6  
CRIAG MOFFITT - 7  
GABRIELMANDEZ - 8  
MARSHALL SOPER - 9  
JOE SPITERI - 10  
GEOFF GUNNING - 11  
GLENN SPROD - 12  
WALTER ARDONE - 13  
JASON FALZON - 14  
ZOKI ADIOSKI - 15  
ANDREW DOWLING - 16  
TOM HAYTHORNTHWAITE - 17  
TONY JOSEVSKI - 18  
BRENDAN RENAUD - 19  
JASON HOLMES - 20

1 - DAVID MILLER  
2 - VINKO BULJUBASIC  
3 - FAUSTO DEMICIS  
4 - VLADO VANIS  
5 - STEVE HORVAT  
6 - ANDREW MARTH  
7 - ZORAN TRAJCEVSKI  
8 - JOSIP BISKIC  
9 - MARK VIDUKA  
10 - VAUGHAN COVENY  
11 - OLIVER PONDELJAK  
12 - MARK SILIC  
13 - ADRIAN CERVBINSKI  
14 - DAVID CERVINSKI  
15 - MARK TALAJIC  
16 - ANTE JURIC  
17 - GEORGE HANNAH  
18 - KRUNOSLAV RAZOV  
19 - DAMIEN VOJTEK  
20 - FRANK JURIC



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

### PARRAMATTA EAGLES v MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

GAME STATISTICS (premiership matches only)

CCSL CAREER RECORD

P W D L F A

Parramatta Eagles: 133 45 41 47 156 166

Melbourne Knights: 253 133 60 80 365 323

Parramatta HOME RECORD: 66 28 15 23 82 73

Knights AWAY RECORD: 125 48 33 44 168 181

HEAD TO HEAD: Played 8, Parramatta 2, Knights 2, Drawn 4

FORM GUIDE: Both sides showed different form on the weekend, but this has makings of a good match. Parramatta, probably still smarting from their League Cup victory, found Brisbane in good form and were a little fortunate to get a draw in the end. The Knights however showed they are not going to be any pushover this season with a terrific 2-0 win over last seasons Grand Finalist Adelaide City (in fact the three pre-season favourites Marconi, Adelaide City and South Melbourne failed to get a win between them). With five players in the Aussie squad to take on Argentina, maybe Adelaide had other things on their mind (Maradona perhaps) but the Knights took control early and never looked back.

SCENARIO: Melbourne has proved to be Parramatta bogey side at Melita Stadium. The Eagles have yet to beat the Knights in four outings at the ground, with the last two games finishing in draws. One would expect Parramatta to bounce back after their lacklustre game last week as they are very hard to beat at home. The Knights will again rely on their young forward line to create problems while ex-Socceroo Marth will have his hands full watching out for Soper and Spiteri. Parramatta by a whisker.



On paper Marconi-Fairfield has the strongest squad in the CCSL, a squad which should see it runaway with the League by Christmas.

That's an opinion shared by many soccer critics, but maybe one which doesn't find much favour with the man at the helm, Frank Arok.

"There is nothing as simple as what people expect, it just won't be like that," defends Arok.

"I have four key players who will not really be a part of my plans until the end of November."

That includes Steve Corica and also possibly Mark Schwarzer who are earmarked for duty with the national team, although it is unlikely that either player will do much more than warm the bench.

"I also have Ian Gray, Tommy McCulloch and Glenn Johnston out with injuries - Johnston hasn't even touched a ball yet!"

"It will take the first eight rounds before you start to see the real Marconi, the same as last season."

That fits in well with Arok's plans which see the Bossley Parkers peaking around May, in time to have a tilt at a second successful Grand Final Championship.

"The Grand Final is the important one. I am aiming at being in the first three places in the League, that's my target at this stage."

But that prediction doesn't rule out the possibility of first place either and even at this stage of the season pundits are tipping a Marconi, South Melbourne and Adelaide City 1, 2, 3.

Having a big squad is something which Arok sees as having advantages and disadvantages.

"It really is down to how the players themselves handle that situation."

"For some players in can be destroying just sitting on the bench."

"My ideal squad in Australia would see me having strength in certain key



LOOKING FOR SUCCESS; Marconi new signing from Wollongong, Mike Smith, is set for a big season at Bossley Park

## NOT READY YET

### Marconi boss Frank Arok claims his team needs another seven games to hit its straps

areas - the keeper, sweeper, main defender, midfielder, striker and one utility player.

"With a squad of 16-17 players we could have a decent team."

"But at Marconi we have 22 players on professional contract, which does give us great strength but as I've said also provides some degree of problem."

Two of Arok's new signings seem set to fill those key spots he covets; Mike Smith and Andrea Icardi.

"Icardi, he is just great.

"Even at training he is screaming and yelling all the time, he even shouts at Kimon (Taliadoros) to come back and fetch and carry."

"Icardi just got fed up with the lifestyle in Italy and decided to opt out to the more peaceful Australian style."

"Mike Smith isn't 100% fit

yet but he can play anywhere - fullback, midfield, sweeper or striker. He is really very talented."

Last season the former St Johnstone Scottish Premier League player had a stormer of a season, despite the fact that his play went largely unnoticed by the media.

Perhaps that had as much to do with the fact that he lined up with the unfashionable Wollongong Wolves but this season I would expect Smith

to make a strong push for Coca-Cola Socceroo inclusion - provided he becomes an Australian citizen first.

Arok still maintains that his team isn't 'right' yet - but on Saturday the fans will be the ones to decide, when Marconi play their first home game of the season, appropriately enough in the first all-Sydney derby against fellow westies, Sydney United.

John White

### FIVE TO DROP?

Last year Preston were relegated from the CCSL under the rule which saw a Melbourne/Sydney team take the drop.

This time round it's the turn of regional teams but the CCSL could lose as many as five teams if plans to reduce the league to 10 clubs are passed at the AGM.

That would possibly see two Sydney clubs drop out along with two from Melbourne, with the relegated regional club being replaced by Perth.

## Coca-Cola SOCCER LEAGUE - Round 2

### MARCONI - FAIRFIELD v SYDNEY UNITED

Marconi Stadium, Sydney - Saturday October 30, 1993

FIRST GRADE 7.30pm.



TEAM COLOURS  
GREEN SHIRT  
WHITE SHORTS  
RED SOCKS  
COACH : FRANK AROK

MARK SCHWARZER - 1  
GEORGE JOLEVSKI - 2  
J. PAUL DE MARIGNY - 3  
MATTHEW BINGLEY - 4  
IAN GRAY - 5  
BLAGOJA KULESKI - 6  
ANDREA ICARDI - 7  
ERMANNO PELUCCHI - 8  
KIMON TALIADOROS - 9  
STEVE CORICA - 10  
ANDREW HARPER - 11  
MICHAEL SMITH - 12  
UFUK TALAY - 13  
GARY NAN EGMOND - 14  
LUKE CASSERLY - 15  
FABIO MACOLINO - 16  
JONATHAN ANGELUCCI - 17  
TOM MCCULLOCH - 18  
DARREN IOCCA - 19  
TONY PEZZANO - 20

### MARCONI FAIRFIELD v SYDNEY UNITED

GAME STATISTICS (premiership matches only)

#### CCL CAREER RECORD

P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi-Fairfield:	447	214	105	128	786
Sydney United:	253	108	66	79	345

Marconi HOME RECORD:	224	120	54	50	426
Sydney United AWAY RECORD:	125	46	35	44	146

HEAD TO HEAD: Played 20, Marconi 6, Sydney United 6, Drawn 8

FORM GUIDE: Near neighbours, whose battles over the years have been close and unpredictable. Marconi continued their scratchy pre-season form with a lucky draw away to Heidelberg. It was a game they were expected to win, so will be more than fired up for a big performance on Saturday. Steve Corica was once again to the fore for the Fairfielders, scoring a brilliant solo goal and hitting the free kick which saw Doug Hodgson head into his own net. Sydney United survived a brilliant South Melbourne attack for just on an hour before finally getting into the game and eventually winning with a single goal to John Gibson. Manfred Schaefer will be well satisfied with the three points and also the form of goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac who was magnificent last weekend.

SCENARIO: Has the makings of a classic match. Both sides have players of immense talent and on any given day could tear any team apart. Five of their past six meetings at Marconi Stadium have finished in draws so the scene is set for a close game. Marconi will welcome back defender Matthew Bingley from suspension, while Schaefer could be tempted to recall exciting striker Manis Lamond if he proves his fitness. Sydney United won't want to start off slow in this game otherwise they will find themselves down early, but if they match it with last seasons champions from the start will be touch and go either way. A big crowd is sure to witness a great match with a few goals likely. Lean towards Marconi, only by one though.





# COCA-COLA MATCH OF THE WEEK

## AUSTRALIA v ARGENTINA



Sydney Football Stadium, Sydney - Sunday October 31, 1993 - 7.30 pm.

BY DAVE COOPER

Australia's last hurdle for qualifying for the 1994 World Cup, which is to be held in the USA. In fact its probably Australia's two most important matches in their history - home and away against the World Champions, Argentina. These games will be the toughest the Socceroos have ever encountered but they are games that will have every Australian sports fan sitting on the edge of their seats. It could be likened to the battle of David (Australia) and Goliath (Argentina) and one can only hope that David will once again triumph above all the odds that are stacked against him.

The difference between the two sides is enormous. Argentina has been a world power in the game for more than 50 years, while Australia has been considered only a third world country when it comes to soccer.

Argentina has appeared in the World Cup on ten occasions including the very first tournament in 1930, where they finished runners-up. They have twice worn the crown of World Champions, firstly on home soil in 1978 and again in 1986, while they finished runners-up in 1990. Australia on the other hand, have only had the pleasure of participating in one World Cup finals, that being in 1974 in West Germany where they were bundled out in the 1st Round.

Argentina has produced some outstanding world class players including the great Alfredo di Stefano, while current captain Diego Maradona has been put in the same bracket as Pele, who was arguably the greatest player of all time. Australia - well our best players are only just starting to be recognised by some European clubs.

The contrasts are great, but it is down to a one on one situation and as we all know, anything can happen in these matches. The Argies travel to Sydney for the first leg with an impressive record over the last few years. They have finished runners-up in the last World Cup in 1990, won the last two Copa-America Cup's in 1991 and 1993 and had gone unbeaten for a phenomenal 31 games before succumbing to the Colombians 2-1 in Colombia. However they suffered the humiliation of a 5-0 defeat by Colombia in front of their home fans, something which happens to them very, very rarely. Despite this setback they

GRAHAM ARNOLD ....  
MILAN BLAGOJEVIC ....  
MARK BOSNICH ....  
STEVE CORICA ....  
MEHMET DURAKOVIC ....  
FRANK FARINA ....  
MILAN IVANOVIC ....  
STAN LAZARIDIS ....  
DOMINIC LONGO ....  
DAVID MITCHELL ....  
JASON POLAK ....  
MARK SCHWARZER ....  
ROBBIE SLATER ....  
ALEX TOBIN ....  
JASON VAN BLERK ....  
CARL VEART ....  
AURELIO VIDMAR ....  
TONY VIDMAR ....  
PAUL WADE ....  
ROBERT ZABICA ....  
NED ZELIC ....  
HEAD COACH - EDDIE THOMSON

RESULT  
SCORERS

..... GABRIEL BATISTUTA  
..... ABEL BALBO  
..... JOSE BASUALDO  
..... JORGE BORELLI  
..... FERNANDO CARERES  
..... JOSE CHAMOT  
..... SERGIO GOYOCOCHEA  
..... LUIS ISLAS  
..... CARLOS MACALLISTER  
..... DIEGO MARADONA  
..... RAMON MEDINA BELLO  
..... HUGO PEREZ  
..... FERNANDO REDONDO  
..... LEONARDO RODRIGUEZ  
..... VICTORY SOTOMAYOR  
..... SERGIO VAZQUEZ  
..... GUSTAVO ZAPATA  
..... NORBERTO SCOPONI  
Head Coach - ALFIO BASILE

REFEREE  
LINESMAN 1  
LINESMAN 2  
RESERVE REFEREE  
COMMISSIONER

S. PUHL (Hungary)  
S. MARTON (Hungary)  
L. VARGA (Hungary)  
L. VAGNER (Hungary)  
H.A. DODDS (New Zealand)



remain one of the favourites for the 1994 World Cup and are ranked number 9 in the world which in comparison to Australia's ranking of 61 is a big difference in standard.

Australia when they get together on the few occasions, have enjoyed some success but mainly against opposition that is not in the class of the Argentinians. We comprehensively out played the New Zealanders over the two legs and in the matches against the Canadians, the Socceroos should have wrapped up the tie way before it came down to the penalty shootout. An encouraging sign for coach Eddie Thomson was the brilliant performance in the first half of the Sydney leg against the Canadians. Although the finishing left a lot to be desired, the way the players got into scoring opportunities was superb.

The two countries have only met twice at senior level, with each having recorded one win. The 1988 Gold Cup saw Australia record its greatest result, defeating the then current World Champions Argentina 4-1. The fact there was no Maradona there that day is of no significance for the Argies still fielded a world class side. Can history repeat itself at the Sydney Football Stadium - only time will tell. Argentina recorded its victory in a 1992 friendly game in Argentina. Made up of mainly locally based players the Socceroos put up a strong performance going down 2-0 in somewhat dubious circumstances after the Argies were awarded an unbelievable penalty, which we never recovered from.

SCENARIO: Australia won't want to be too fancy early on, otherwise Argentina will murder us. The Argies will be fairly cautious as well for a result here in Australia would be a bonus for them. Could be a very physical game but Thomson should tell his players to concentrate on playing football. Both sides minus key players Farina (Australia), Ruggeri and Simone (Argentina) so both coaches will play cat and mouse in regards to naming final line-ups. There has been talk that Ivanovic should be left out of the Australian team, but for these games he should be first picked because its games like these that experience counts and he has plenty of it. In conclusion while this maybe Australia's toughest game in its history, the simple truth is the Socceroos must win to have any chance of qualifying, for the return game in Argentina is going to be twice as tough.

# Coca-Cola SOCCER LEAGUE - Round 2

BRUNSWICK MELBOURNE v WOLLONGONG CITY

Croatian Sports Centre, Melbourne - Saturday October 30, 1993



**FIRST GRADE 3 pm.**

TEAM COLOURS  
BLACK & WHITE SHIRT  
WHITE SHORTS  
WHITE SOCKS  
COACH : JOHN MARGARITIS

ROBERT MANZELLA - 1  
STEPHEN MARLEY - 2  
- 3  
ROBERT FERLA - 4  
PAUL DELLA ROCCA - 5  
SEAN LANE - 6  
ARCHIE MCGEACHY - 7  
SASHA BECVINOVSKI - 8  
STEPHEN SMITH - 9  
ARTUOR KIRISHIAN - 10  
ANDREW ZINNI - 11  
MICHAEL MAZZINI - 12  
ANTHONY BUDINI - 13  
DAVID IACOVITTI - 14  
ROBERT TOMBOLATO - 15  
DINO MIHOCIC - 16  
JOHN PILLEMER - 17  
GOERGE KARKALETSIS - 18  
SEB EMMANUELLE - 19  
ROBERT BRIAN - 20

TEAM COLOURS  
RED SHIRT  
WHITE SHORTS  
RED SOCKS  
COACH : DAVID RATCLIFFE



1 - BRETT HUGHES  
2 - TOM BAZDARIC  
3 - MIKE O'SHEA  
4 - CHARLIE YANKOS  
5 - MARTIN BOURKE  
6 - MATT HORSLEY  
7 - PAUL MCFADDEN  
8 - SASHO DIMOSKI  
9 - DALE WHITE  
10 - RICHARD LLOYD  
11 - SCOTT OLLERENSHAW  
12 - ANTHONY SURJAN  
13 - DAVID THOMAS  
14 - DONAL O'BRIEN  
15 - IAN MORRIS  
16 - CLAUD CELLINI  
17 - STEVEN KRISHNA  
18 - STEVEN FORESHAW  
19 - MARK TROTH  
20 - JOHN KRAJNOVIC

**BRUNSWICK MELBOURNE V WOLLONGONG CITY**

GAME STATISTICS (premiership matches only)

CCSL CAREER RECORD

P W D L F A

Brunswick Melbourne: 123 51 27 45 155 153

Wollongong City: 319 105 89 125 384 458

Brunswick HOME RECORD: 60 32 13 15 92 64

Wollongong AWAY RECORD: 160 40 42 78 158 258



HEAD TO HEAD: Played 2, Brunswick 0, Wollongong 2, Drawn 0

FORM GUIDE: Not the come back to CCSL, that Brunswick wanted. After surviving for 45 minutes, the CCSL newcomer could not cope with the torrent of shots from West Adelaide going down to five second half goals. They have now conceded 15 goals in three games (two League Cup, one premiership). Wollongong looked in a menacing mood against the Breakers. Ratcliffe had the Wolves firing in the second half with midfielder Paul McFadden taking the most of his opportunities with the two goals. The two sides have only met twice before with the Wolves coming away with victories in both games.

SCENARIO: Brunswick will have to work on their defence if they are to improve in the CCSL. Once the Sharks have scored two goals they just catapulted downwards. More time on the park together can only serve to improve but by that time they could be way behind the pack. Wollongong will be looking to continuing where they left off against the Breakers. Not the best travellers but are lucky they have Brunswick as their first away opponents and not South Melbourne. Brunswick to put up a better show, however, Wollongong to win.

# Coca-Cola SOCCER LEAGUE - Round 2

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS v SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Mitre 10 Stadium, Newcastle - Friday October 29, 1993



**FIRST GRADE 7.30 pm.**

TEAM COLOURS  
SKY BLUE SHIRT  
SKY BLUE SHORTS  
SKY BLUE SOCKS  
COACH : JIM FOLEY

CLINT GOSLING - 1  
RALPH MAIER - 2  
ANDREW ROBERTS - 3  
DARREN STEWART - 4  
MARK JONES - 5  
GRAHAM JENNINGS - 6  
BOBBY NAUMOV - 7  
JOHN McQUARRIE - 8  
ROD BROWN - 9  
WARREN SPINK - 10  
DAVID LOWE - 11  
NEIL OWENS - 12  
SCOTT WELLS - 13  
HOWARD TREDINNICK - 14  
DARREN NORTHAM - 15  
NICK MEREDITH - 16  
JOSE MENDEZ - 17  
STEVEN FORESHAW - 18  
- 19  
- 20

TEAM COLOURS  
BLUE SHIRT  
BLUE SHORTS  
BLUE SOCKS  
COACH : BERTI MARIANI

1 - MIKE GIBSON  
2 - DAVID BARRETT  
3 - ELIAS AUGERINOS  
4 - TONY SPYRIDAKOS  
5 - ROBERT IRONSIDE  
6 - GRANT LEE  
7 - JOE CALETA  
8 - BRANKO MILOSEVIC  
9 - IVAN KELIC  
10 - KRIS TRAJANOVSKI  
11 - PETER TSEKENIS  
12 - BRAD MALONEY  
13 - NORMAN TOME  
14 - EVANGELOS PETRATOS  
15 - PABLO CARDOZO  
16 - GEORGE SORRAS  
17 - JOSE MENDEZ  
18 -  
19 -  
20 - GARY MEIER



**NEWCASTLE BREAKERS v SYDNEY OLYMPIC**

GAME STATISTICS (premiership matches only)

CCSL CAREER RECORD

P W D L F A

Newcastle Breakers: 53 17 16 20 67 71

Sydney Olympic: 421 165 120 136 583 498

New castle HOME RECORD: 26 9 9 8 34 31

Sydney Olympic AWAY RECORD: 209 71 59 79 275 274



HEAD TO HEAD: Played 4, Newcastle 0, Sydney Olympic 3, Drawn 1.

FORM GUIDE: Newcastle showed signs in the first half of their game against Wollongong City that they will be competitive this season. A good sign for them was that Spink opened his account for the year with a goal minutes before half-time. A superb second half from Wollongong saw the Breakers conceded three goals. Olympic had to fight hard against a 10 men Morwell Falcons side before beating them 2-1. It was a terrible convincing performance from Olympic, but the three points will give them some confidence. Olympic also know that in the previous four meetings between the clubs they have yet to lose with last years corresponding fixture finishing at 1-1.

SCENARIO: Newcastle won't want a repeat of last years slow start to the season, so a win first up at home is vital. With the team starting to play more games together and if the service of Spink and Brown improves the Breakers will be hard to beat. Olympic will have to work hard as a unit to come away with the points because as everyone knows 35 yard goals like Milosevic's winner against Morwell only come around once every blue moon. Newcastle - just!!



## SOCER LEAGUE - Round 2

MORWELL FALCONS v BRISBANE UNITED

Morwell Falcons Park, Morwell - Saturday October 30, 1993



FIRST GRADE 7pm.

TEAM COLOURS  
WHITE SHIRT  
WHITE SHORTS  
WHITE SOCKS  
COACH : BOBBY McLACHLAN

TEAM COLOURS  
WHITE SHIRT  
WHITE SHORTS  
WHITE SOCKS  
COACH : BRUCE STOWELL

STEVEN MAUTONE - 1  
GARY UPTON - 2  
JOE GAGETTI - 3  
STEVEN DOUGLAS - 4  
SHAUN PARTON - 5  
PAUL DONNELLY - 6  
SONNY SEVIN - 7  
JOHN MARKOVSKI - 8  
BRIAN BOTHWELL - 9  
JOHN WADDELL - 10  
LACLAN ARMSTRONG - 11  
VASCO TRPCEVSKI - 12  
AHMET GURPINER - 13  
CLAUDIO CANOSA - 14  
ANTHONY CASSAR - 15  
CARLO VILLANI - 16  
MARCUS STERGIOPoulos - 17  
JUSTIN GERI - 18  
- 19  
JASON DASTEY - 20



1 - CLINT BOLTON  
2 - FRANK BIMBLETT  
3 - ALUN EVANS  
4 - ALAN HUNTER  
5 - STEVE JACKSON  
6 - DARREN HILLIER  
7 - GARY PHILLIPS  
8 - ANDREW STOWELL  
9 - ANDRW LEES  
10 - DANNY WRIGHT  
11 - TROY CRANNEY  
12 - CHRIS SLATER  
13 -  
14 - SEAN CRANNEY  
15 - CRAIG WILLIAMS  
16 - KEVIN MEACOCK  
17 - BRADLEY DITTON  
18 - STEIN GRODUM  
19 -  
20 - GRAHAM ROSS

### MORWELL FALCONS v BRISBANE STRIKERS

GAME STATISTICS (premiership matches only)

#### CCSL CAREER RECORD

P W D L F A

Morwell Falcons: 27 7 7 13 30 45

Brisbane Strikers: 53 13 14 26 64 100

Morwell HOME RECORD: 13 5 4 4 21 19

Brisbane AWAY RECORD: 26 2 7 17 16 55

HEAD TO HEAD: Played 2, Morwell 0, Brisbane 1, Drawn 1.

FORM GUIDE: Morwell were courageous in defeat against Olympic last week. It only took a matter of minutes for the whole complexion of the game to change when after John Markovski scored from the penalty spot, he found himself marched from the field just before half-time. A golden opportunity minutes after the break could have swung the pendulum back in Morwell's favour but they didn't and in three minutes found themselves down 2-1. Brisbane can consider themselves unlucky not to have taken all the points in their game against Parramatta Eagles, they dominated for long periods but could not find the back of the net, which could be a major problem for them this season.

SCENARIO: Morwell will do it tough without the experienced Markovski through his automatic one match suspension. Coach McLachlan will also have to improve his midfielders contribution, who were virtually non-existent against Olympic. Brisbane have been in good form through out the pre-season. Ex- Olympic player Gary Phillips has provided that extra spark in the middle of the park and if given any room will torment the Falcons defenders relentlessly. Came away from Morwell with a draw last season and should do at least the same on Saturday.



# From Paradise to the La Trobe Valley

McLachlan predicts bright future for Morwell's new boy, *Lachlan Armstrong*

by  
John Glen

Just six months ago Lachlan Armstrong was running out onto the field at Parkhead - the legendary Paradise home of Glasgow Celtic - in the colours of Scottish Premier League club, Dundee.

At the time it must have looked as if Armstrong had finally arrived.

The talented Aussie had already survived the rigours of the British apprentice professional scheme, which is designed to sort the men out from the boys, and was on the freshfield of a first team place in Dundee's line-up.

But things didn't quite work out and after Dundee spent heavily on new strikers during the Scottish summer Armstrong decided that it was time to pack his bags and head back home.

Home for the Armstrongs is Melbourne where his father Jimmy had been a successful player, achieving the ultimate ambition in the Green and

Gold of Australia.

It was Jimmy Armstrong's friendship with Morwell coach Bobby McLachlan that persuaded Lachlan to try his luck at La Trobe Valley rather than South Melbourne where most fans would have predicted he would have played.

"I got wind of the fact that Lachlan was unhappy at Dundee," explains McLachlan.

"I had a chat with the boy's Dad, and when he flew back we got him up to Morwell so that he could see the set-up."

Once again McLachlan proved his shrewdness in the transfer stakes by signing up Armstrong before most knew what was going on.

"He really is a good player, he's got a good touch and an eye for goals."

"I think he will do very well in the CCSL."

What the future holds for Lachlan Armstrong is uncertain.

Maybe he'll head back to Britain for another crack at full time football or maybe

he'll be content to bang the goals in at Morwell - and go looking for a place in Eddie

**STRIKE FORCE:** Morwell fans will be looking for Armstrong to team up with John Waddell (pictured below) once the Sunshine loan player recovers from his broken ankle.



Thomson's Coca-Cola Socceroo plans.

At just twenty years of age Armstrong could figure in preparations for the next Olympics if he can bang the goals away in Morwell colours.

And although it is a long way from Dens Park and trips to Paradise, home for Lachlan Armstrong is now in the La Trobe Valley where his first mission is to establish himself as one of the top young players in the country.

# Happy Birthday

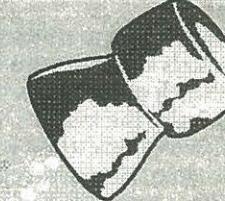
to all CCSL stars who celebrate their birthdays over the next week. Cheers!

28th Frank Juric (Knights) 30th Peter Bordignon (Heidelberg)

31st Elias Augerinos (Olympic), Brentley Jefferd (Brisbane)

Paul Tsagliotis (Souths)

2nd Danny Wright (Brisbane) 3rd Ean Rodrigues (Parramatta Eagles)



# young stars of AUSSIE SOCCER

ANTE MORIC

interviewed by MIKE KOMADINA

## PLAYER STATS

Name: Ante Tomislav MORIC  
Club: Sydney United  
Position: central midfield  
Date of Birth: 19.4.74  
Place of Birth: Australia  
Time at club: 3 seasons  
Previous club: Australian Institute of Sport  
CCSL debut: 1992/93 v Preston

## THE FOOTBALL FILE

**Who gave you your first big break in soccer?**  
My father - he bought me my first ever ball.  
**Who helped you most in your early development?**

My father again, for the first five years (age 6 - 11) he was my coach.

**What do you remember of your CCSL debut?**  
It was raining, muddy and I really didn't touch the ball many times.

**What is the most memorable match you have ever played in?**

Australia v Colombia, the opening match of the World Youth Cup in Sydney.

**What is the best goal you have ever scored?**  
That was probably last season in the NSL Youth League. I scored with a curving free kick against Wollongong.

**What do you like most about playing CCSL football?**

Competition, and the urge to be the best.  
**How do you rate your club's finals' chances?**

We'll do pretty well. Sydney United are basically a young side with a few more experienced players.

**Who is the most exciting player at your club?**  
Manis Lamond - his skills are just extraordinary.

**Which other player in the CCSL do you admire the most?**

Steve Corica - he's young with everything going for him. He's a real class player.

**What are your aspirations of playing for the Coca-Cola Socceroos?**

I'd love to play for the senior side but just now I'll be doing my utmost to make it with the Coca-Cola Olyroos for the Atlanta Games in 1996.



## THE PERSONALITY FILE

**What kind of music do you like?** Techno, whenever I'm out at a night club. But I'm basically a Top 40 person - and I also like Croatian music.

**Who is your favourite local band or singer?** I haven't got any favourite local stars.

**What is your favourite local nightspot?** Punchies (The Punchbowl Night Spot).

**What do you think of Aussie soaps? Any favourite shows or actors?** They're OK but I prefer overseas shows like Santa Barbara.

**Have you seen any good movies lately?** "Last Action Hero" with Arnold Schwarzenegger.

**What is your favourite food and drink?** Sarma (a Croatian dish made from cabbage with minced meat inside) and Fanta.

**Which is your favourite part of Australia?** Sydney, which is where my family and my friends live.

**Who are your best friends?** Mario Kardum is my best friend.

# Taking Life As It Comes

**West Ad new boy George Slifkas looks at life in the Blue and White of his new club - with an eye on the Green and Gold of Australia**

by  
Bruce Campbell

West Adelaide new boy George Slifkas is enjoying

the pace of life in the South Australian capital since his close-season transfer from Heidelberg United.

"Yes, it's really good," said the solid midfielder who

made his home debut against the Melbourne Pumas last weekend.

"I needed a bit of a change," explains Slifkas of his move, "but Adelaide isn't too far from Melbourne."

Slifkas dodged any questions about the Adelaide nightspots by claiming he "hadn't been out yet", instead concentrating on his soccer role with Raul Blanco's side; "anyway Raul is working us too hard!"

And most pundits would predict a big future for the West Ad new boy who recently broke into the Australian national set-up with his debut against Korea.

"It was great," said the obviously pleased player.

"I was glad to be part of it all. A cap is a cap, and I'm just glad to have represented Australia.

"Thommo has had me in involved

in training camps already but it was great to come on for my country.

"I'm taking it steady and will concentrate on preparing myself for the next World Cup campaign.

"It was great to pull on the Green and Gold.

"If I can produce good form on the field for my club then that will help my future chances, but whatever does happen I'll just take it as it comes."

Blanco set a vigorous pre-season training programme for his squad, including twice daily training sessions aimed at bringing the players up to peak fitness.

It is that sort of 'extra level' which will be of benefit to players like Slifkas who are expected to form the backbone of Australia's squad for the 1998 World Cup campaign.

"I've had long talks with Raul, and I'm pleased to be part of the West Adelaide plans.

"At Heidelberg there were too many restrictions on my play but at West Ad I've been given more freedom in my central midfield role."

That doesn't mean that

CCSL fans will see Slifkas making attacking pushes through the midfield, as he will slot into the vital playmaker role that is the basis of Blanco teams.

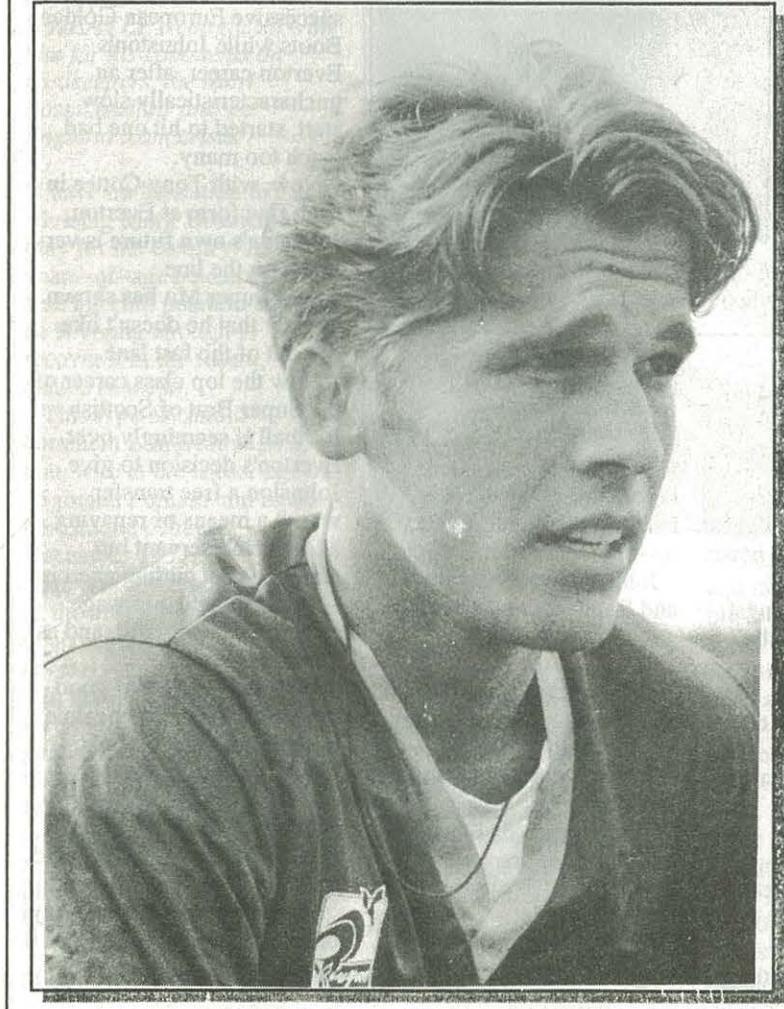
And Europe?

"If it happens, then it happens," says the pragmatic star.

"Every footballer would love to play full time and I am no different but you have to perform well in Australia before that chance will ever happen.

"But I am happy to stay in this country and just take life as it comes."

Life for George Slifkas looks pretty good just now - expect him to become a major player in the CCSL this season and to use that background to cement his place in coach Eddie Thomson's future Coca-Cola Socceroo plans.



# Super Mo or Super Brat?

by Archie McPherson

British fans are divided about him; some say he's great, some say he's a pain in the proverbial.

In Glasgow, a city where he was once revered, at least 50% of the city hates him.

Of the other half, part of those are glad to see the back of him also, simply because his performances kept 'Super Ally' McCoist on the bench – or at least the Glasgow Rangers manager's perception of those performances.

Maurice Johnston, born in Scotland's industrial heartland of Glasgow over 30 years ago, is a footballer who has continued to raise the temperature of supporters since he first made his debut with tiny Partick Thistle as a bustling eighteen-year-old.

"He was brilliant," says lifetime Jags' supporter Andy Burton.

"You know, we used to go down to Firhill just to see Mo play."

"The last time we had anything to shout about was ten years before, when Partick gave Celtic a duffing in the League Cup final."

"I think that everybody expected him to be snatched up by one of the bigger clubs, but he really was a lad about town."

"Johnstone was very popular with the fans – both on and off the field."

In fact, Johnston's celebrated night life had caused a few prospective buyers to cool towards the free-scoring Scot.

But not Elton John's Watford.

Two years after making his debut for Thistle, the then Watford manager, Graham Taylor, came in with a bid that Partick couldn't refuse and the newly promoted First Division side grabbed a bargain.

In his first season Johnstone scored an amazing 20 goals in only 29 league appearances, but the following season he was back in Scotland –



UNWANTED: the one-time glamour boy of soccer now knows what it is like when the telephone stops ringing

playing for Celtic.

"I've always wanted to play for Celtic," said a contrite Johnstone at the time.

"This is the move I've always wanted."

"Celtic are one of the biggest clubs in the world, and I never want to leave Parkhead."

The more cynical amongst Glasgow's legion of football writers were putting bets on how long he would stay, citing a longing for Glasgow's clubs and pubs rather than any homesickness as his reason for returning north.

But three seasons later Johnston was off again – to the easier and less physical French league with unfashionable Nantes.

After another two seasons,

and with Johnston again yearning for Scotland, Celtic went in for their *enfant terrible* once more.

With Johnston proudly wearing the hooped shirt of Celtic at a Parkhead press conference, and declaring undying love for the 'Bhoys', the then Rangers' manager Graeme Souness nipped in,



'the judge'.

In 1991 Everton picked him up for a bargain \$3.4 million. New Rangers' manager Walter Smith didn't see a place in his strike force for the controversial Mo – preferring instead the rejuvenated McCoist and Mark Hateley – much to the delight of the Rangers' following.

Smith was proven correct, seeing McCoist pick up two successive European Golden Boots while Johnston's Everton career, after an uncharacteristically slow start, started to hit one bad patch too many.

Now, with Tony Cottee in such fine form at Everton, Johnston's own future is very much on the line.

And Super Mo has shown already that he doesn't like life out of the fast lane.

Now the top class career of the Super Brat of Scottish football is seemingly over.

Everton's decision to give Johnston a free transfer wasn't a means of repaying a loyal club servant but simply a cost cutting exercise

– a way to get a top wage earner off the payroll, and as fast as possible.

With the amount of good players heading for the dole queues in Britain it looks likely that any future

Johnston does have lies in Europe, or busking around the lower leagues of England and Scotland.

For the boy who seemingly once had it everything, now it might just be all over.

# Strong words from safe hands

*Tony Maceado admits to his fair share of football headlines. The former England Under 23 international goalkeeper broke into the Fulham side at nineteen and went on to clock up over 500 English First Division appearances.*

*Macedo is currently in Australia running an experienced eye over the local scene and ROBBIE WHEATLEY caught up with him for his comments on goalkeepers, the Mark Bosnich affair and the England team crisis.*

"I have no hesitation in advising Mark Bosnich to play for his country. At 21 years-of-age he can afford to lose his club position because he is young enough to recover it in the future," claims Macedo.

This type of candid comment is indicative of a man who at the tender age of 15 joined Fulham and made his League debut in December 1957.

He was soon hailed as one of the best England goalkeeping discoveries for several seasons.

In that era Macedo was a well built, but extremely agile goalkeeper who was born in Gibraltar, spent his career in London, established goalkeeping clinics in South Africa over 25 years, and had playing stints in America and Canada in the early 1970's.

After retiring from professional soccer at the age

of 30 Tony Maceado has spent a lifetime in football.

While he is impressed with the great strides made by Australian born goalkeepers back in England, he also has a hint of caution in what they have achieved.

"Mark (Bosnich) is a very good goalkeeper with a lot of potential but hasn't quite proven himself," Macedo



asserted.

"In my opinion he has gotten himself into a league not significantly better than the one he left."

While many people will be astonished at this remark, Macedo is experienced in assessing player achievements, and is quick to highlight the outstanding breakthrough in the Bundesliga of Socceroo Ned Zelic.

"You have to be careful with the standards that you

compare them to, but with Zelic he has unquestionably reached a great height."

Macedo's main claim to fame was fame was his involvement in the developing years with Manchester United.

The South African born goalkeeper Gary Bailey was a Macedo product from the age of 10 who demonstrated



outstanding fundamentals and made the transition to the big scene in spectacular style.

Since his arrival in Australia, Tony Maceado has been an interested spectator at the pre-season and League Cup matches and has worked with CCSL clubs.

His thoughts on the local scene are worth noting.

"The big problem with some keepers is that they are not catching the ball."

"Instead, they tend to be happy to put balls away."

"There are also very bad technical problems with the amount of crosses that are not taken."

"30% of what you save can be negated by taking the cross."

In his 25 years of goalkeeping instruction, including clinics in South Africa that ran for 15 years, Macedo has focussed his attention and interest in the 12-18 age group.

His intention has always been to avoid working keepers at too high a physical level.

"This age group is still physically developing and misplaced practices are not only a waste of time, but prejudicial to development."

In his playing days at Craven Cottage future England manager Bobby Robson lined up at inside-left for the Fulham club.

The side also included future England star Alan Mullery and the team enjoyed great success and camaraderie.

However, when reference is made to the 1993 England team Tony Maceado laughs briefly and then enters into a tirade of criticism which stems out of frustration at the current situation.

"If you can't pick 11 England internationals and you don't know what the outcome is going to be then something is wrong."

"If you read something negative about Graham Taylor then you can believe it – he has not motivating skills or any ability to get on with players."

"I have no remorse that the bubble has burst."

Strong words from a man keen to make a contribution to the Australian scene which Macedo describes as being in good shape.

"Undeniably, playing ability and experience are two factors clubs could extract far more easily from Tony Macedo during his stay in Australia, a man who made countless saves over a long and successful career."

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# Russell Set to Pilot Cup out of Doldrums

CCSL General Manager Peter Russell has expressed his confidence in the future of the League Cup.

This season the tournament was moved into a pre-season slot and proved a big hit with fans, although attendances were still poor in the midweek fixtures.

"Yes, it has definitely been more successful this season," said Russell.

"I think that the main part of that success has been the actual acceptance by the clubs themselves.

"They put their best team out on the park each fixture so what we had was a genuine cup competition."

Russell is now piloting the next stage of the Cup - an expansion into an Australia-wide format.

"The States have been advised of our plans and are

now invited to put forward their own suggestions as to the eventual format.

"We will have a decision on the Cup by December so that we will have enough time to put the plan into action before next season."

This year the ASF was forced to scramble around for a sponsor at the last minute and paid the price by failing to attract any commercialism into the cup.

But it looks all systems go now for 1994.

"Mid-week fixtures are definitely one thing that we'll look at," says Russell.

"I would prefer consecutive legs to be played on weekends."

A likely format would see clubs from each state qualify for the early rounds which would then be played regionally.

## Minimum Wage For Players

One of the initiatives that the ASF is set to push for this season is the establishment of a minimum contract wage for players.

That is designed to prevent clubs from making players professional for the sake of a token weekly wage - with the player in the past just added to an increasing first team squad but with little real chance of ever getting regular first team action.

It is expected that the newly formed Australian Soccer Players Association will take part in the discussions to establish this new level of professionalism.

John White

continued from previous page

NSW, Victoria (probably their League Champions if different from Cup teams), Tasmania, the ACT, Northern NSW and Western Australia.

That would give a total entry of 28 teams.

But whatever the final format the future looks good for a tournament that has been almost continually in the doldrums since its inception in 1977.

## NEXT WEEK IN SIMPLY SOCCER

\* wrap up on the World Cup clash

\* all the CCSL action

and BIG stories as they happen

\* Robbie Wheatley's new coaching segment

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#### YOUTH LEAGUE

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Under 14 - Tuesdays October 12, 19, 26, November 2

Under 15 - Wednesdays October 13, 20, 27, November

3

Under 16 - Thursdays October 14, 21, 28 November 4

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# Boot Room Goss

 Willie Herd - the ex Morwell Falcon could be on his way back to Oz shortly. Despite being a regular starter for Alloa it seems that Willie doesn't relish life playing in front of crowds of 200-300. Alloa Athletic has one of the smallest supports of any professional club in Britain and it looks odds on that Herd could link up with his former club sooner rather than later.

 Scott Ashton is the Blacktown City player - mentioned in last week's column - looking for a contract in Hong Kong. My 'spy' in the Crown Colony tells me that the defender is on a short trial but looks almost certain to be fixed up.

 Former Bonnyrigg coach Mike Johnston is back in Wollongong after a round the world trip which took him to England and Malaysia. Johnston is on the look out for a club for next season but might just be the man to land the Director of Coaching job at the NSWASF....

 Sydney Olympic are said to be on the verge of signing a 'big name' player. No names have been mentioned, but it is said to be a BIG name player with negotiations at a fairly advanced stage.

 And our southern parrot tells us that Melbourne Pumas are also on the hunt for a defender to patch up their defence. No names have been mentioned by the CCSL new boys yet but a signing could take place in the next few weeks.

 Seen at Wentworth Park after an Argentine training session - Diego Maradona clearing up the litter and coke cans left around by his teammates. Without being prompted the little midfielder strolled over and tidied up the mess and then went off back to the team hotel. Good on you Diego, there is a lesson a lot of people can learn there.

 Manis Lamond will soon be back in first team duty. Last weekend he had an outing with the Sydney United youth team and showed no after effects of his broken ankle from last season. Lamond, one of the most talented ball-players in the CCSL, had to have a pin in the bone after a really bad break even threatened to end his career. Now he is fit and raring to go and by all accounts will be back in first team action by the end of November.



# JOY FOR BATISTUTA?

One of the key men in Argentina's vital clash with the Coca-Cola Socceroos at Sydney Football Stadium on October 31 will be Fiorentina-based Gabriel Batistuta. The 24-year-old striker has shown flashes of brilliance since his transfer from Boca Juniors and the Argentinian back room staff will be hoping that he plays with the same flair that he showed when he last played against Australia. In that game last year the Aussies went down 2-0 - the first goal coming from the spot after Batistuta did his own impression of a 'dying swan' in the penalty box.



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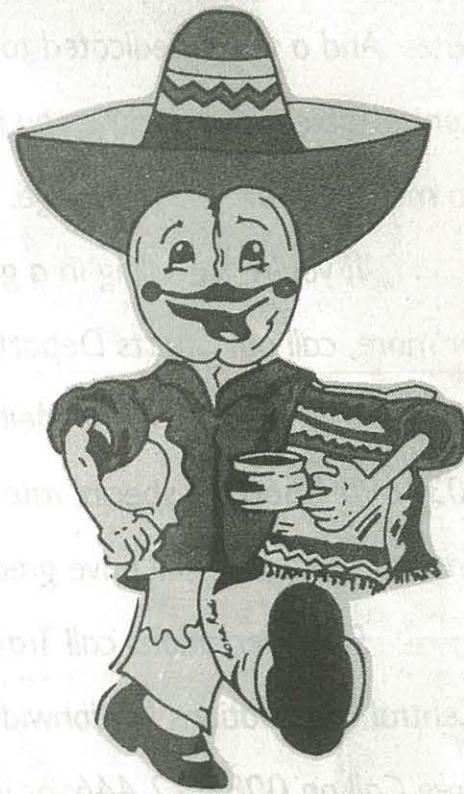


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Question 1 Who is the captain of the Female Socceroos?  
 Question 2 Which Australian international goalkeeper plays in England for Aston Villa?  
 Question 3 Name the CCSL clubs which have 'United' in their names.  
 Question 4 Which player has been capped most times by Australia?  
 Question 5 Which multi-national soft drink company sponsors the Australian national teams?

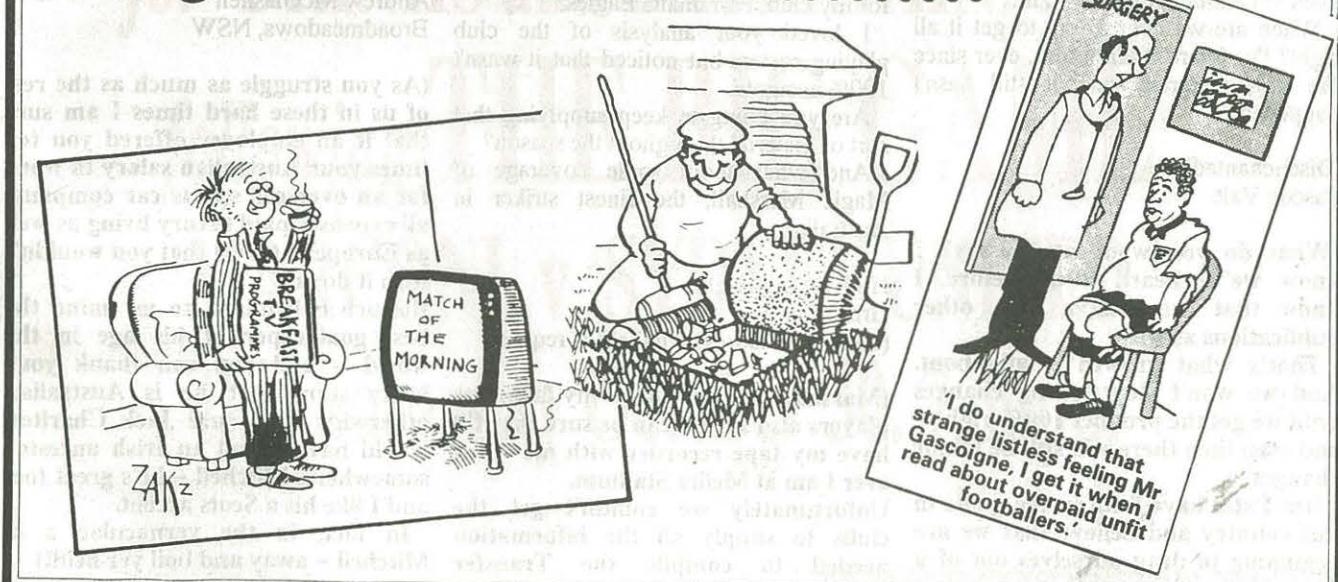
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(Don't forget to include your name and address)

of the NSW Amateur Soccer federation Development programme however, all year round there is a massive demand for coaching clinics,

shopping centre promotions, Aussie Sports Programmes and general events promoting soccer in the state. *Hectic, but exciting.*

## It's Just A Game .....



# mailbox

## BADLY NEEDED

I heard about the new magazine from my club, Melbourne Brunswick United, and I would like to say how badly needed a weekly magazine is which devotes itself to the CCSL.

As a long time follower of soccer in Australia I want to read more about our up and coming young players, and keep in touch with what is happening in the rest of the country.

To date we have never quite had a paper or magazine that was really good enough.

If *Simply Soccer* fits that picture then you have gained at least one committed reader.

G Santolin  
East Brunswick

P.S. Please don't waste our pages with motor racing or any other sports - we want a *soccer* paper.

(Judge for yourself, this issue is a sample of what we will bring you - and all our space is devoted to the world's number one sport.)

## DISENCHANTED

Here we go into another CCSL season. More promises, another club in (and one more out), new marketing hype and even yet another new magazine.

When are we ever going to get it all right? I've heard it all before, ever since the league started, and it still hasn't happened.

'Disenchanted'  
Pascoe Vale

(What do you want me to say? I know we've heard it all before, I know that there have been other publications as well.

That's what growth is all about. And we won't stop getting changes until we get the product 100% right - and even then there will still be minor changes.

But I still have faith in the game in this country and believe that we are beginning to drag ourselves out of a

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'mailbox'  
PO BOX 286  
MIRANDA. NSW 2228  
Answers supplied by Bruce Campbell

slump which has plagued the sport for too long. Time will tell.)

## QUIZ TIME

I've written to other periodicals and so far haven't received a reply.

Could you tell me when Reg Date scored his first goal for Australia - I've got \$100 riding on this.

Best of luck with the new magazine - it sounds real good.

Len Harvey  
Adamstown

(You don't pick the easy ones, Len! Anyway, the first time Reg Date scored for his country in a full international was in 1947 at the Sydney Cricket Ground versus South Africa in front of a 40,000 crowd. It was also Date's 'debut', but Australia lost 1-2.)

## STATS

I picked up a copy of the magazine at the League Cup final - which was a disappointing game despite a great result for my club, Parramatta Eagles.

I loved your analysis of the club playing rosters but noticed that it wasn't 100% accurate.

Are you going to keep supplying that sort of material throughout the season?

And what about some coverage of Magic Marshall, the finest striker in Australia!

High Flying Eagle  
Granville  
(name and address withheld at request)

(Marshall Soper is one of my favourite players also so you can be sure that I'll have my tape recorder with me whenever I am at Melita Stadium.

Unfortunately we couldn't get the clubs to supply all the information needed to compile the Transfer

Simply Soccer reserves the right to delete whole or part of any letter, or to edit any letter for the sake of accuracy, legibility and publishing standards.



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